

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

NEAE-00 USIE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05

CCO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05

OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 /102 W

----- 043800

O 081454Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8906

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
FICUERLANT NORFOLD VA
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2101

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINT, LE
SUBJ: AKKAR QUIET BUT TENSE; RUMOR OF INCIDENT IN SOUTH

REF: (A) BEIRUT 2068 (DTG 060810Z MAR 76), B() BEIRUT 2071
(DTG 061350Z MAR 76)

1. LATEST REPORTS AS OF 1200 HOURS LOCAL MARCH 8 CONFIRM THAT INCIDENT IN AKKAR FAR LESS TENSE THAN LAST FEW DAYS, BUT SOURCES AGREE PROBLEM IS NOT OVER. CHRISTIAN VILLAGE OF QUBAYAT REMAINS SURROUNDED BY ARMED MEN. CEASEFIRE ARRANGED FRIDAY NIGHT (REF B) WAS APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN STOPPING SHOOTING WHICH HAD BROKEN OUT SPORADICALLY UP TO THEN. PLA TROOPS IN AREA HAVE INSTALLED "COUNTER-SIEGE" OF VILLAGE TO SEPARATE COMBATANTS. REPORTEDLY PLA NOT LETTING QUBAYA VILLAGERS LEAVE FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION. HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS REPS ON SCENE ATTEMPTING RECONCILE PARTIES, AND NATIONAL SHIITE LEADERSHIP INCLUDING IMAM MUSA SADR AND SPEAKER KAMEL AL-ASSAD ARE MEDIATING AS WELL.

2. ARMY IS IN COMMEND OF MUNITIOUS CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS IN SARBA CASERNE AT JOUNIEH. BUT HERE TOO SOME TENSION LINGERS AS THEIR REBELLIOUS SENTIMENT REPORTEDLY HAS NOT SUBSIDED FULLY AND MAY EVEN HAVE SPREAD, CONFIDENTIAL

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APPARENTLY TO CONTROLLABLE EXTENT, TO NEARBY NAVAL STATION AT JOUNIEH.

3. MEANWHILE, TROUBLE MAY BE BREWING IN SOUTH AS ARMY DESERTER AHMAN AL-KHATIB REPORTEDLY SURROUNDED A LOCALITY IN THAT AREA MORNING MARCH 8. EXACT LOCATION OF THIS INCIDENT NOT PINPOINTED IN EARLY UNCONFIRMED REPORTS RECEIVED SO FAR, BUT PROBABLY WAS

NABATYE. KHATIB'S GROUP WAS REINFORMED THIS MORNING
BY ADDITIONAL FIFTY NEW DESERTERS AND ARTILLERY HOWIZERS
FROM A GARRISON IN SOUTH.

4. COMMENT: HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE AP-
PEARS TO HAVE TAEN HEAT OUT OF THE AKKAR SCENE,
BUT TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO NORMALIZE SITUATION. OUT-
BREAK IN SOUTH, IF EARLY NEWS IS TRUE, SHOWS HOW
EASILY TROUBLEMAKERS CAN DISRUPT CEASEFIRE AT LEAST
IN OUTLYING AREAS. IF DESERTERS PROBLEM NOT SOLVED
SOON, WE EXPECT FURTHER LOCAL ERUPTIONS OF THIS TYPE.
LAMBRAKIS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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